

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR INFORMATION TRANSFER OVER A
NETWORK
ABSTRACT**

An interface device for connecting to and
5 retrieving data from a remote computer system, and
method of compressing, decompressing and
transferring data therefor. A user may set transfer
constraints on the interface device. The interface
device may be a web browser. The user selecting a
10 web site requests data, normally image data from a
remote computer system. The interface device
includes a cache memory where generic objects may be
stored. Each generic object corresponds to an
original object in the requested data. Depending on
15 the data transfer constraints, instead of retrieving
the entire image, e.g., web page image, unaltered
from the host system, a compact generic image is
retrieved, initially, wherein generic objects are
substituted for each corresponding original object.
20 A pseudo-image is displayed, with the generic
objects substituted for corresponding original
objects. Subsequently received original objects may
be substituted for generic objects as each original
object is received.